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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Keith L. Black and Nagendra S. Ningaraj
Appln. No. : 09/615,854 Confirmation No. 4523
Filed : July 14, 2000
T.C/A.U. : 1636
Examiner : Qian C.X.

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Customer No. : 20786

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop Patent Application
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 1, 2004

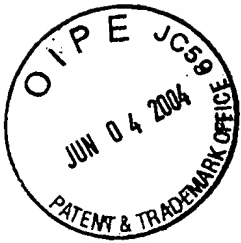
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Madam:

This is a response to the Office Action mailed March 31, 2004, for the above-captioned patent application. A Petition for a one month extension of time, up to and including June 1, 2004. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any requisite fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0980. In connection with the above-captioned application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the following Amendment and Applicants' Remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 20 of this paper.



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this Response to the Office Action mailed March 31, 2004, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450, on June 1, 2004.

Rebecca Kaufman, Esq.

Date: June 1, 2004

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